

region of South Africa, and a member of the Cyperaceae in a genus previously unreported for North America.

*Ficinia filiformis* has cespitosely clustered, filiform culms 10–25 cm. tall; the leaves are all basal with prominent scarios sheaths and filiform blades 2–8 cm. long. The terminal capitate inflorescence, of 2–5 reddish spikelets about 3 mm. long, is subtended by two involucral bracts, the lowermost 1–2 cm. long and appearing to be a continuation of the culm. *Ficinia filiformis* superficially resembles *Scirpus Clintoni* and *S. Hallii*; it might also be mistaken for a depauperate form of the more common *Bulbostylis capillaris*.

It is hoped that, during the coming field season, members of the Torrey Botanical Club will search for this plant near the C. R. R. N. J. terminal and in other waste places in the New York harbor area where the species might still be persistent. It is requested that all suspicious looking specimens from the region be forwarded to the writer for determination.

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### ***Lespedeza violacea* in New Jersey**

HAROLD N. MOLDENKE

In the first report of the Local Flora Committee in TORREYA 40: 105–109 (1940) the statement is made that *Lespedeza violacea* (L.) Pers. is “represented in New Jersey from Warren, Morris, and Bergen Counties.” The implication is that it is not known as yet from any other counties. Actually there are specimens of this species in the Britton Herbarium at the New York Botanical Garden from two additional counties. N. L. Britton collected it at Sparta, Sussex Co., on September 5, 1887, and K. K. Mackenzie’s No. 1123 is from Wight’s Pond, Sussex Co., collected on September 25, 1904. The present writer’s No. 11243 was collected along an old wood road on the “First Mountain,” Watchung, Somerset Co., on August 23, 1939.

It is to be hoped that the Local Flora Committee will some day publish a series of maps showing the known distribution of all the species and varieties of wild plants in the so-called “Torrey Club range” (*i.e.*, within a radius of 100 miles from New York City).

Such maps could be of the sort recently published by Frank Gates in his "Flora of Kansas" and by Charles Deam in his "Flora of Indiana." They should be compiled on the basis of all the preserved material in all the important private and institutional herbaria in this area, and not merely on the basis of the material in one or a very few herbaria. Such a series of maps would show graphically where members of the Club could profitably botanize. The reward of being able to extend the known distribution of a species or variety in one direction or another in our area ought to provide a sufficient incentive to much worthwhile botanizing and collecting in a region which is fast being changed by the rapid advance of civilization.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### One More Textbook

Textbook of Botany. E. N. Transeau, H. C. Sampson and L. H. Tiffany, Harper & Brothers. 1940. \$4.00.

The first botany presented to beginners and the general public was taxonomic; later it became morphology, especially the comparative morphology of a series of types interpreted by a theory of descent. Recently an attempt has been made to teach a more "biological" botany, to emphasize the functions of plants as a means of formulating a concept of life. Still more recently ecology has won recognition as a teachable point of view and botany has become the study of vegetation and its relations with animal life and human civilization.

The *Textbook of Botany* by Transeau, Sampson, and Tiffany (though it opens in the good old-fashioned way with a description of a bean seedling) represents, more competently than any other recent text, the most modern approach to "general" botany. This latest arrival in the family of botanical texts is a big book of 812 pages, with 424 illustrations, several in color. There are fifty-three chapters, beginning with "Plant Science," "The Parts of Plants," "Learning to Name Plants," "Seasonal Aspects of Plants," and continuing with "The Tissue Systems of Leaves," "A Bit of Useful